



Weekly News

Did you know...?

Days of Drought

Last week Monday I wrote this article. Then suddenly rain arrived, complete with thunder and lightning, an answer to prayers. Our area is still in a rain deficit situation, although the short-term forecast calls for more rain. But just so we do not forget during times of normal rainfall that the rain is a gift we all need, let's look back to just one week ago:

We've all recently taken to looking skyward, or we've been looking at our phones or televisions to check the weather forecast. It is obvious what our weather has been – the grass is becoming brown and brittle, the stressed corn is curled inward, and nowhere near as tall as an elephant's eye. Squirrels are sprawled out on branches to keep cool, and soybeans look parched. We haven't had measurable rain here in nearly eight weeks.

"This, too, shall pass away," as King Solomon once said.

It has happened before in our area and was much worse. In fact, in 1837, a major drought visited the fledgling town of Tremont. In "*The History of Tremont*," Millie Troll dramatically described it in her 1925 historical booklet:

1837 -. "For seven weeks not a drop of rain had fallen and for a previous period of nearly twice that length of time, the few showers that had fallen were barely sufficient to lay the dust. There were no dews. The earth gaped under the merciless sun, vegetation was parched to ashes. The trodden roads were piled with dust. Sickness which had begun early in the summer in various parts of the county, increased in malignity. The longer the drouth held, the more fatal grew its ravages. For weeks the heavens were watched for clouds or some sign of mercy, but in vain. In the meantime, disease and death stalked abroad. The pestilence claimed its victims in every home, in some, whole families were prostrated, and the sufferers were dependent upon the kindness of their neighbors and friends to minister to their wants. The fevers took their most malignant and fatal character in the bottom lands, those bordering on the streams...One could ride miles in those regions and pass seemingly deserted cabins, but on entering, find several persons in the same dark room, tossing and raging in the various stages of the fever. This spread through the entire county and the Village of Tremont paid its tribute in death and severe illness of many of its citizens. There were but three or four wells in the village that offered any water and that was used with judicious care. On the 14th of September occurred an eclipse of the sun and all hoped that some change would be wrought by this great event, but their hopes were in vain."

Since this was only two years after Tremont was founded, and before weather was

officially recorded here, we have no idea how long that drought lasted. It is fortunate that Tremont resident Millie Troll wrote her booklet, relating early Tremont history and weather, or we'd have no record at all.

There are 5 levels of drought, DO-D5. We are at D2, a severe drought. One step below severe drought is an extreme drought. Since 1895, there have been extreme droughts eight times in Central Illinois. And in the years since 1965, we have had two extreme droughts in our area - occurring in 1988-89 and 2012.

Hopefully, this drought will end soon, and will just be a blip in the weather records. Meanwhile, our eyes will turn to the skies to seek some major storm clouds brewing.

~ Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, 2023

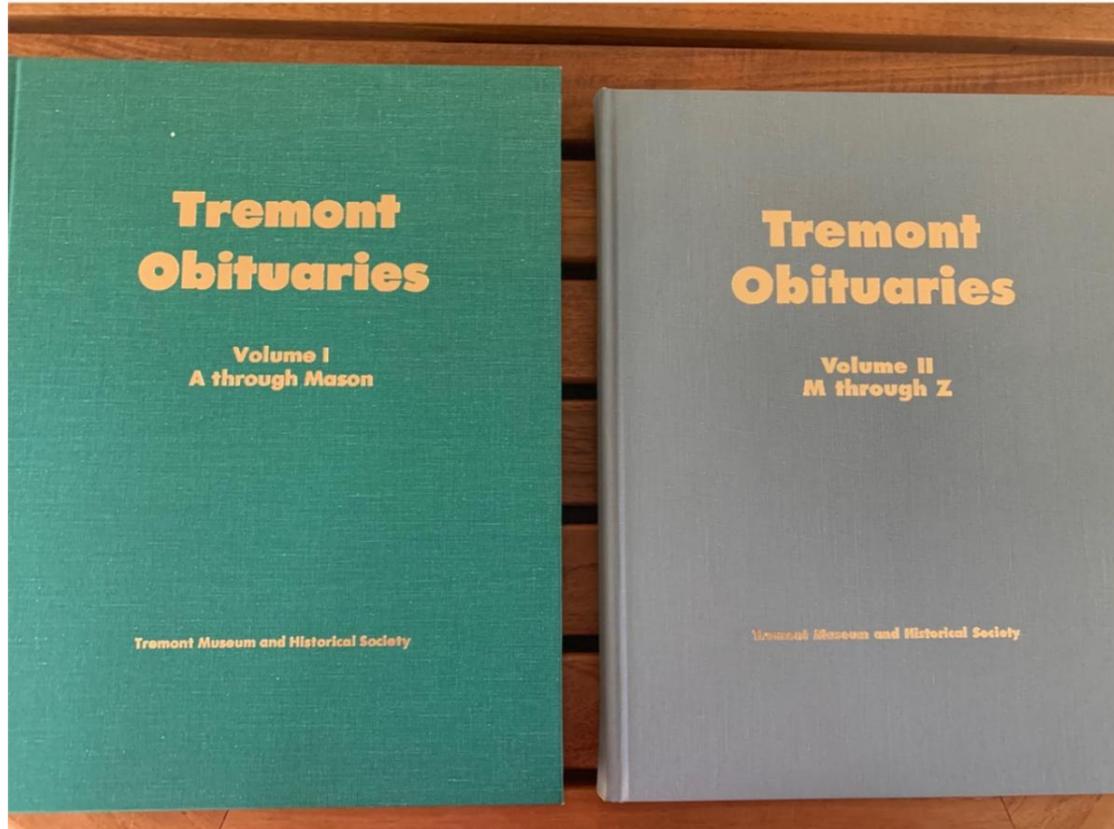
Tremont Museum

JUST TWO SUNDAYS LEFT FOR FAB 50s EXHIBIT

The Tremont Museum's popular Fab 50s exhibit will be on display for just two more Sundays. Visit or re-visit the 1950s from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on Sunday, July 9 and July 23. Special exhibit admission will be charged, cash or check only. See you there!

*The Tremont Museum has obituary books for sale. Volume I is "A through Mason" and Volume II is "M through Z." The obituaries that are included range from some of the earliest settlers in Tremont to those who died in 1988.

The price for each volume is \$10.00. Please contact Lori at 309-840-0094 or Kay at 419-296-2323 if you wish to buy a book.



Tremont District Library News

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)
Wednesdays, 10:30 -11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

Story Hour (ages 3-6)

Thursdays, June 22nd, 10:30 -11:15 am

Stories, rhymes, activities, and a craft. Prepare your child for lifelong learning! No registration.

Minecraft Days (ages 7+)

Thursdays, June 22 - Aug. 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Play Minecraft with friends! No registration, participants must provide their own device. Learn more on our website.

Find Your Voice Dancing!

Friday, July 7, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Join us for a playful & interactive dance class where we will learn how to use our bodies and props to express a story or emotion. Local dance instructor, Jessica Taylor, will be our leader!

Movie Night at City Park: Hotel Transylvania 3

Friday, July 7, 8:30 pm

Join us for a movie on the big screen at City Park! We'll be showing "Hotel Transylvania 3", rated PG, starting at sunset (~8:30pm).

Tremont Community Senior Meals



We have loved seeing new folks continue to join us for Senior Meals and we have already served over 20 individuals in one gathering! If you want to be a part of the group, call 309-674-1131 Ext. 231 and leave a message saying you will be coming. Don't worry if you don't get a call back - if you have left a message then you have done all you need!

Also, we are still looking for people who would enjoy leading activities at these events. if you are interested, email Braden at scsoulmanager@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Saturday

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We

will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Tremont Winning Communities | info@tremontil.com | <http://tremontil.com>

Tremont Winning Communities | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

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